Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4

28 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator Stuart Symington
Re Public Disclosure of Agency Budget

1. Pursuant to the Director's instructions, and in response to the Senator's earlier query on the above subject to [redacted] I called on the Senator this afternoon. I said I understood he was concerned at the seriously exaggerated public speculation regarding the size of the Agency budget, but reminded him of the strong feeling of our Subcommittees, and particularly Senator Russell, that this subject should never be discussed outside of our own Subcommittee membership. I said in view of this the Director could only urge the Senator to do nothing that would open the matter up for further inquiry or revelation. 25X1

2. The Senator explained that his concern was based on the fact that on a number of recent occasions the figure of [redacted] had been mentioned, both in public and among his colleagues on the Hill, and he thought it was time to say something to put a stop to this irresponsible speculation. He spoke of Senator Proxmire's recent reference to the [redacted] figure on the "Today Show" on 25 March. Symington added that he had the distinct impression that the Defense Department was happy to let this sort of misconception persist, since it diverted attention from DOD's own intelligence budget which was [redacted] as the Agency's. The Senator said he recalled hearing the Agency budget figure mentioned at a briefing of the Agency Subcommittees last summer and asked whether it wasn't between [redacted] I said in fact, and for his own ears only, it was around [redacted] He suggested this would be only about [redacted] intelligence budget. I said that offhand I couldn't quote him an accurate figure on the total community budget, and that in any event the community figure depended a good deal on just what one chose to include. 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

Copy 3 of 3

Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4 CRC, 7/3/2003

Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4

3. I said I appreciated the Senator's concern in our behalf and we were all troubled by the exaggerated figures that were being kicked around but nevertheless, in view of the strong feelings of our Subcommittees in the matter I could only urge, in the Director's behalf, that the Senator not do anything that might compromise the true figures, which were among our most sensitive secrets.

4. The Senator said he understood our position and promised he wouldn't take any action for the time being, but said at the next meeting of our Subcommittees he would "put the problem on the table."

25X1

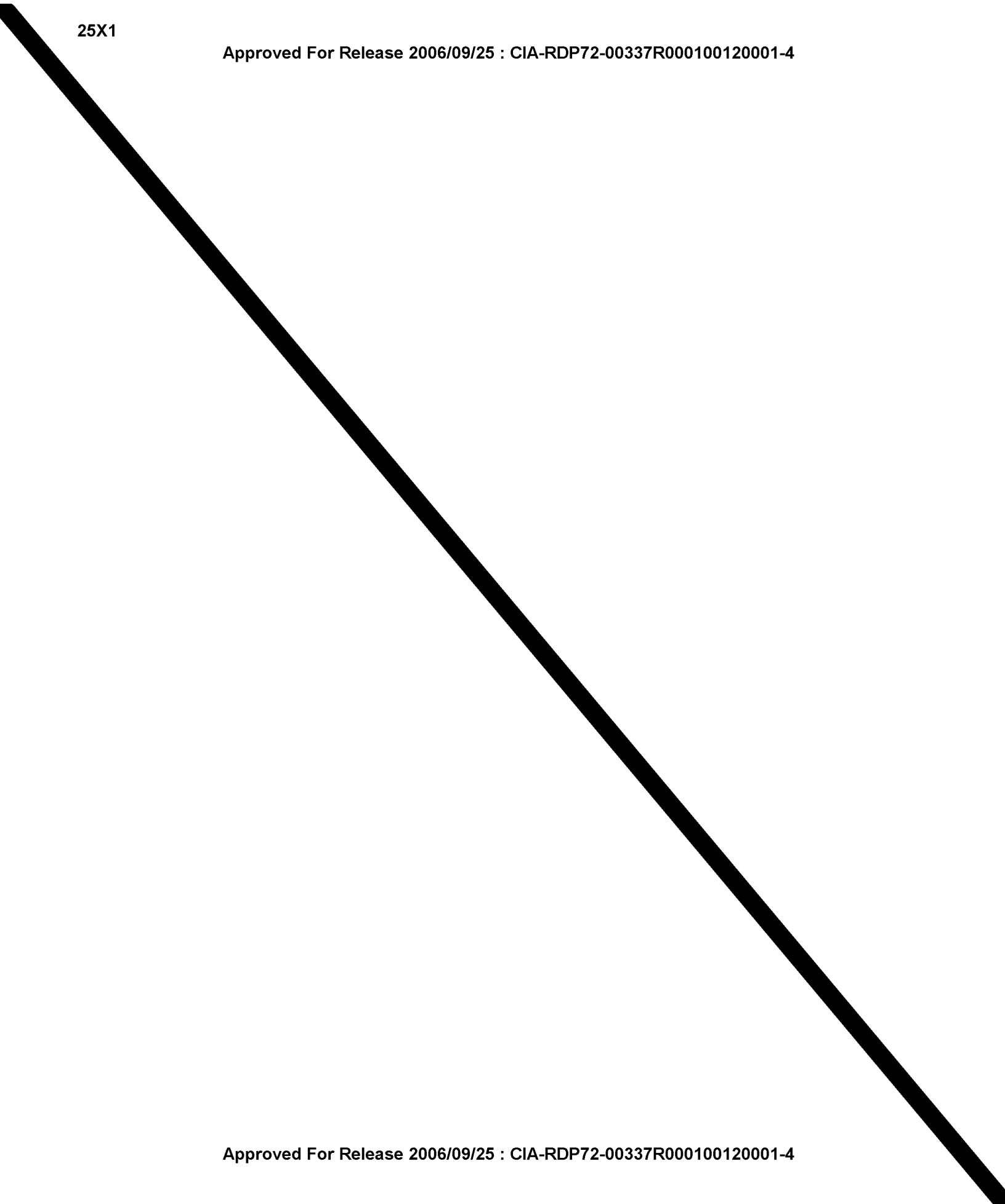
JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:
Copy 1 - Subject (via DCI)
Copy 2 - Ex/Dir
Copy 3 - Chrono

Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4

25X1

Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4



Approved For Release 2006/09/25 : CIA-RDP72-00337R000100120001-4